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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 :
G09F 3/02, 3/20 // B32B 29/00

A1

(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/31644

(43) International Publication Date: 24 June 1999 (24.06.99)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/DK98/00552

(22) International Filing Date: 15 December 1998 (15.12.98)

(30) Priority Data:
9701466 16 December 1997 (16.12.97) DK

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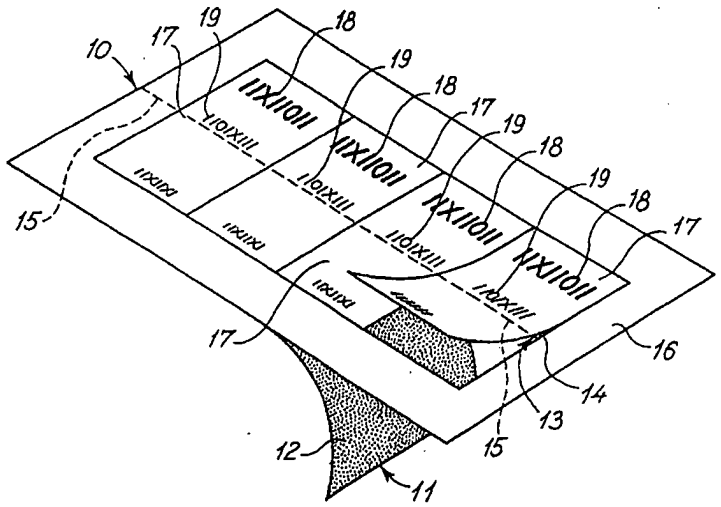
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(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published
With international search report.

(54) Title: A LABEL SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

A label assembly comprises a support sheet of a paper material or paper-like material defining opposite surfaces, an adhesive coating of a non-permanent adhesive material of solvent-based or preferably water-based type applied to one side of the support sheet, and a printing paper of a paper material or paper-like material defining opposite front and rear surfaces. The rear surface of the printing paper is releasably fixated to the support sheet in facial contact therewith through the adhesive coating and the printing paper is divided into individual paper labels or paper tags which are individually removable from the support sheet. The label assembly constitutes a label assembly which is readily printable in a laser jet or any similar printing machine such as an ink jet printer or a type-writer, which label system consequently renders it possible to provide a printing on a specific label for identifying a lever arch file or ring binder by means of the label assembly.

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A label system.

The present invention relates to a label system.

Conventional lever arch files or ring binders are provided with a transparent pocket provided at the back of the lever arch file or ring binder in which pocket a label may be received. The label serves the purpose of identifying the lever arch file or ring binder in question and is usually pre-printed including a number of lines allowing the user to write a short combination of letters and integers by means of a pencil or pen e.g. a ball point pen. The label is usually made from cardboard and presents a fairly rigid body which is, due to the small size of the label and the rigidity of the cardboard material, not readily printable in e.g. laser printers or ink jet printers or alternatively type writers for providing a printing on the label.

A conventional label system is known including a support sheet constituting a release paper and a printing paper provided with an adhesive coating at the rear surface of the printing paper. Attempts have been made to modify the conventional label system so as to make the label system usable in connection with lever arch files or ring binders as the adhesive coating of the printing paper has been provided as a dry adhesive. These attempts, however, have not been successful as the dry adhesive is not compatible with the high temperature treatment which the dry adhesive is exposed to in e.g. a laser printer. In case the conventional label system including a dry adhesive is used in a laser printer, the dry adhesive is ruined and the individual labels of the label system including the dry adhesive are caused to loosen from the supporting support sheet or release paper resulting in that the individual labels of the label system are not correctly positioned relative to the support sheet or loosen from the support sheet which may further cause the laser jet to be jammed by the loose paper labels.

Label systems including plastic foils is also known from e.g. EP 0 389 112 and EP 0 488 813. The plastic foils of these known label systems, however, like the above described dry adhesive cannot stand exposure to the high to be used in conjunction with the lever arch file or ring binder.

An object of the present invention is to provide a label system including a number of individual paper labels which label system is readily printable in a laser jet or any similar printing machine such as an ink jet printer or a type writer which label system consequently renders it possible to provide a printing on a specific label for identifying a lever arch file or ring binder by means of the paper label.

The label system according to the present invention provides a specific advantage as compared to the conventional paper labels to be used in conjunction with lever arch files or ring binders as the label system renders it possible in a PC-controlled printer such as a laser printer or ink jet printer to provide the printing on a specific label or alternatively a set of labels identifying a set of lever arch files or ring binders in accordance with specific printing requirements such as requirements relating to typography.

A particular feature of the present invention relates to the fact that the label system according to the present invention may be readily employed for providing a multitude of labels or tags such as place cards, visiting cards, gift tokens, taking in to dinner-cards, name signs, conference signs or badges, tabel signs and identity cards.

A further feature of the present invention relates to the fact that the label system may include different labels or tags allowing the printing of a label system for identifying different objects belonging to a set of objects such as lever arch files or ring binders, books etc. belonging to a set to which set a further person identified through an ID-card and having congress signs and table signs may be identified. Alternatively, the label system including a plurality of identical labels or tags may be used for identifying different lever arch files, ring binders, books or the like in accordance with specific printing requirements etc.

A further advantage of the label system according to the present invention relates to the fact that the individual paper labels are produced from a conventional, preferably non-coated printing paper material or paper like material such as conventional printing paper or printing paper including

reinforcing plastics materials or plastic reinforcing fibers.

The above object, the above advantage and the above features together with numerous other objects, advantages and features which will be evident from the below detailed description of the present invention are in accordance with the teachings of the present invention obtained by a label sytem, comprising

a support sheet of a paper material or a paper like material, the support sheet defining opposite surfaces,

an adhesive coating of a non-permanent adhesive material of a solvent based or preferably a water based type applied to one side of the support sheet, and

a printing paper of a paper material and defining opposite front and rear surfaces, the rear surface of the printing paper being releasably fixated to the support sheet in facial contact therewith through the adhesive coating and the printing paper being divided into individual paper labels or paper tags which are individually removable from the support sheet.

The label system according to the present invention basically comprises a conventional printing paper or cardboard of a paper material or a paper like material which is supported by the support sheet also made from a paper material or a paper like material and including the adhesive coating of a non-permanent adhesive material of a solvent based or preferably a water based type and serving the purpose of fixating the printing paper relative to the support sheet and consequently the individual paper labels or paper tags of the printing paper relative to the support sheet, and further allowing the paper labels or paper tags of the printing paper may be released from the support sheet after the label system has been used for its intentional purpose, i.e. for providing a printing on a specific paper label.

The support sheet and the printing paper of the label system according to the present invention may have any appropriate outer contour or configuration such as a rectangular, a quadratic, a circular, an elliptic or any polygonal configuration. The support sheet and the printing paper may further have different outer dimensions as the support sheet may be smaller than the printing paper or alternatively the printing paper may be smaller than the support sheet provided that the part of the support sheet

which is uncovered by the printing paper is provided with a covering of an appropriate covering such as a paper covering. Preferably, the support sheet and the printing paper are, however, of identical outer dimensions such as outer dimensions in conformity with conventional paper standards such as the DIN standard A0-A6 including e.g. the conventional DIN A4 standard measuring 21 cm x 29.7 cm. Alternatively, the support sheet and the printing paper may have e.g. the US folio standard dimensions measuring 8^2 inch x 14 inch (21.6 cm x 35.6 cm) or any other appropriate dimensions such as Japanese B5 standard measuring 18.4 cm x 25.7 cm or Japanese B4 standard measuring 36.4 cm x 25.7 cm.

According to a highly advantageous embodiment of the label system according to the present invention, the support sheet is divided into two or more support sheet sections, one of which is removable from the label system for partly exposing the rear surface of the printing paper, thus, further exposing at least part of the rear surfaces of the paper labels or paper tags of the printing paper making it very easy to remove the paper labels or paper tags individually from the support sheet without causing any mechanical deformation or damage of the paper labels or paper tags.

The printing paper of the label system according to the present invention may constitute an un-printed or alternatively a pre-printed printing paper or cardboard having printings provided at the paper labels or paper tags such as printings identifying the manufacturer of the label system in question. Alternatively, the pre-printing may comprise e.g. pre-printed lines allowing the user to make a handwriting on a specific paper label or paper tag.

The non-permanent adhesive coating of the support sheet of the label system according to the present invention may be constituted by any appropriate non-permanent adhesive coating allowing that the paper labels or paper tags be removed from the support sheet and further that the adhesive coating is exposed to the high temperature treatment in e.g. a laser printer. Thus, the adhesive coating may be constituted by a solvent type adhesive coating, a hot melt adhesive coating or alternatively and preferably an acryl-emulsion coating e.g. an acrylic polymer containing or a polyurethane contanining adhesive coating, preferably a water based,

non-heat curable adhesive.

The above described highly advantageous embodiment of the label system according to the present invention including the support sheet being divided into two or more support sheet sections preferably further exhibits one or more lines of separation defining said two or more support sheet sections and extending centrally through the individual paper labels or tags allowing that the user may easily remove the support sheet sections individually for exposing the individual papers labels or tags and allowing the label system to be handled by the user without any prescribed or preferential removal of one of the support sheet sections before another support sheet section.

The present invention will now be further described with reference to the drawings in which

Fig. 1 is a perspective and schematic view of a first embodiment of a label assembly according to the present invention,

Fig. 2 is a perspective and schematic view similar to the view of Fig. 1 of a second embodiment of the label assembly according to the present invention,

Fig. 3 is a perspective and schematic view similar to the views of Figs. 1 and 2 of a third embodiment of the label assembly according to the present invention,

Fig. 4 is a perspective and schematic view similar to the views of Figs. 1-3 of a fourth embodiment of the label assembly according to the present invention,

Fig. 5 is a perspective and schematic view similar to the views of Figs. 1-4 of a fifth embodiment of the label assembly according to the present invention,

Fig. 6 is a perspective and schematic view similar to the views of Figs. 1-5 of a sixth embodiment of the label assembly according to the present

invention, and

Fig. 7 is a perspective and schematic view illustrating an advantageous application of the label assembly according to the present invention.

In Fig. 1, a first embodiment of a label assembly according to the present invention is shown designated the reference numeral 10 in its entirety. The label assembly basically comprises two paper sheets or similar sheets or foils one of which constitute a support sheet and one of which constitutes a printing paper. The support sheet of the label assembly 10 is constituted by two support sheet sections 11 and 13 which together define a support sheet of standard dimension DIN A4 measuring 21 cm x 29.7 cm. The support sheet comprising the two sections 11 and 13 constitutes a continuous sheet divided into the two sections along a line of separation 15. Each of the support sheets sections 11 and 13 is provided with an adhesive front covering 12 and 14 of a non-permanent, preferably water based adhesive such as an acrylic or polyurethan containing adhesive, respectively, serving the purpose of adhering the printing paper of the assembly 10 to the support sheet during storing of the sheet and also during the process of providing a printing on the front surface of the assembly. The printing paper constitutes like the support sheet a sheet of standard dimensions DIN A4 measuring 21 cm x 29.7 cm. Whereas the support sheet is divided into two sections, the printing paper is divided or cut into a total of four labels or tags 17 which are circumferentially encircled by a paper rim section 16. The paper rim section 16 defines a substantially constant width. The width of the circumferential rim sectin 16 is furthermore, as is evident from Fig. 1, somewhat smaller than the width of the support sheet section 11. Each of the paper labels or tags 17 is provided with printings 18 and 19 which are identical to one another, as the labels or tags may be used for identifying items or products such as lever arch files, ring binders or books which are interdependent. Alternatively, the labels or tags 17 may be provided with different printings as the individual labels or tags may be used for identifying individual items or products such as individual lever arch files, ring binders or books.

The label assembly 10 is preferably produced from two continuous rolls of

paper material one of which is used for the support sheet and another one of which is used for the printing paper. The support sheet may be supplied as a sheet including the adhesive coating and is separated into two continuous half sections defining the support sheet half sections 11 and 13 of the assembly 10. The printing paper is before or after the printing paper is contacted with the two section support sheet cut into the configuration shown in Fig. 1 comprising the labels or tags 17 and the circumferential rim section 16. Numerous modifications of the process of producing the label assembly, are, however, obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art, and the above description of a method of producing the label assembly is by no means to be construed limiting the present invention.

The label assembly 10 is preferably used for printing text on the labels 17 by means of e.g. a laser printer, an ink jet printer or alternatively a type writer. Provided a laser printer or ink jet printer is used, a personal computer connected to the printer in question is preferably provided with a program or a soft ware controlling the process of printing the text and controlling the registration of the printed text relative to the individual labels or tags 17. After the printing of the text such as the text 18 and 19 on the labels or tags 17 has taken place, the individual labels or tags 17 are separated from the supporting sheet in the following manner. Initially, the support sheet section 11 is separated from the adjacent support sheet section 13 revealing unexposed sections of the label or tag 17 which unexposed sections are easlily gripped by the user for removing the individual labels or tags from the support sheet section 13. In Fig. 1, the support sheet section 11 is illustrated in a bent down mode illustrating an initial state of separating the support sheet section 11 from the adjacent support sheet section 13. Also in Fig. 1, the right hand label or tag 17 is illustrated partly separated from the underlying support sheet section 13, the adhesive coating 14 of which is, thus, exposed.

In Fig. 2, a second embodiment of the label assembly according to the present invention is shown designated the reference numeral 20 in its entirety. In Fig. 2, elements or components similar to those of the first embodiment 10 described above with reference to Fig. 1 are designated the same reference numerals, however added the number 10. Thus, the reference numerals of the elements of the label assembly 20 shown in Fig.

2 are designated the reference numerals of the twenties.

Whereas the first embodiment 10 comprises two support sheet sections 11 and 13, the second embodiment 20 comprises three support sheet sections 21a, 21b and 23. The support sheet sections 21a and 21b basically constitute support sheet sections similar to the support sheet section 11 of the first embodiment 10 which are separated from the central support paper section 23 through lines of separation 25a and 25b. All three support sheet sections 21a, 21b and 23 are provided with adhesive front surface coatings among which the surface coatings of the support sheet sections 21a and 23 are disclosed in Fig. 2 and designated the reference numerals 22a and 23, respectively. In the above described first embodiment 10 of the label assembly, four identical paper labels or tags 17 are provided. In the second embodiment 20 shown in Fig. 2, three different configurations of paper labels or tags are provided. The label assembly 20, thus, includes a first major paper label 27a which is provided with printings 28a and 29d, three smaller size paper labels or tags 27b which are provided with printings 28b and 29b and further a third paper label or tag 27c which is provided with two printings 28c and an unmarked area 29c which serve the purpose of receiving a photograph, stamp or the like. It is, however, to be understood, as is evident from Fig. 2, that the lines of separation 25a and 25b preferably extend centrally and symmetrically through the respective paper labels or tags.

The printings 28a, 29a, 28b, 29b and 28c may be identical or different from one another dependent on the application of the label assembly. According to an advantageous and preferred application of the label assembly 20, the paper labels or tags 27a, 27b and 27c are used for identifying an individual participating in e.g. a conference or congress. Thus, the major size label 27a may serve as a sign board to be positioned on the table in front of the conference or congress participant, the minor size labels or tags 27b may be used for mounting within the receiving pocket of a lever arch file or ring binder, and the label or tag 27c may serve as a batch identifying the individual as a photograph of the individual is fixated within the unmarked area or frame 29c of the batch 27c. Like the above described first embodiment 10, the second embodiment 20 of the label assembly also comprises a circumferential paper rim section 26

encircling the paper labels or tags 27a, 27b and 27c.

In Fig. 3, a third embodiment of the label assembly according to the present invention is shown designated the reference numeral 30 in its entirety. In Fig. 3, elements or components of the third embodiment 30 similar to those of the first embodiment 10 described above with reference to Fig. 1 are designated the same reference numerals, however, added the figure 20. The third embodiment 30 basically differs from the above described first embodiment 10 in two aspects. Firstly, the circumferential outer rim 16 of the printing paper is omitted as the printing paper of the third embodiment is divided into a total of nine paper labels or tags 37 which are provided with printings 38 and 39 and further a set of printed lines for allowing an individual to make a hand written printing on the paper label or tag. Secondly, the third embodiment 30 differs from the above described first embodiment 10 described above with reference to Fig. 1 in that the support paper is divided into a center section 33 which is circumferential encircled by a total of four support sheet sections 31a, 31b, 31c and 31d which are separated from the central support paper section 33 through separation lines 35a, 35b, 35c and 35d, respectively. The support sheet including the central section 33 and the circumferentially encircling rim sections 31a, 31b, 31c and 31d is provided with an adhesive coating for adhering the printing paper to the support paper during storage and during the process of providing printings on the individual paper labels or tags of the printing paper as described above with reference to Fig. 1. As is evident from Fig. 4, the lines of separation 35a, 35b, 35c and 35d extend centrally through the respective paper labels or tags.

In Figs. 4, 5 and 6, three additional embodiments constituting a fourth, a fifth and a sixth embodiment of the label assembly according to the present invention are shown designated the reference numerals 40, 50 and 60, respectively. The fourth, fifth and sixth embodiments basically corresponding to the above described first embodiment 10 in that each of the fourth, fifth and sixth embodiments include a plurality of identical paper labels or tags 47, 57 and 67, respectively. The labels or tags 47 and 57 shown in Figs. 4 and 5, respectively, are positioned perpendicularly relative to the orientation of the paper labels or tags 17 of the label

assembly 10 shown i Fig. 1 whereas the labels or tags 67 shown in Fig. 6 are positioned similar to the labels or tags 17 of the paper assembly 10 shown in Fig. 1. The fourth embodiment 40, the fifth embodiment 50 and the sixth embodiment 60 each includes a support paper which is divided into three sections similar to the sections 21a, 23 and 21b of the second embodiment 20 described above with reference to Fig. 2 and which are indicated in Figs. 4-6 through dotted lines 45a/45b, 55a/55b and 65a/65b. In Figs. 4, 5 and 6, downwardly bent outer ends of support sheet sections 41a, 51a and 61a, similar to the above described section 21a of the second embodiment 20 are also disclosed. The different dimensions of the labels or tags 47, 57 and 67 serve the purpose of providing labels or tags which are adapted to be received within specific receiving pockets of e.g. lever arch files or ring binders. The paper labels or tags 47 and 57 are intended to be used in connection with lever arch files and ring binders, whereas the paper labels or tags 67 are intended to be used in connection with inserts of suspension files.

In Fig. 7, an advantageous and preferred application of the paper labels or tags such as the paper labels or tags 17, 27b, 37, 47, 57 and 67 described above with reference to Figs. 1-6, respectively, is illustrated. The reference numeral 70 designates a lever arch file or ring binder, the back of which is designated the reference numeral 76. At the top of the back 76 of the lever arch file or ring binder 70, a receiving pocket 72 is provided for receiving the paper label or tag of the present invention constituted by the above described first embodiment 17 which is provided with the printings 18 and 19. The pocket 72 is constituted by a rectangular, transparent foil which is fixated to the back 76 of the lever arch file or ring binder 70 through a welded seam 73. The pocket 72 defines an open upper end 74 through which the paper label or paper tag 17 is introduced into the pocket.

The above described embodiments of the label assembly according to the present invention is primarily intented to be used for printing labels such as labels to be used in conjunction with e.g. books, lever arch files or ring binders for identifying the book, lever arch file or ring binder. It is to be realized that the paper labels or tags such as the paper labels 17 described above with reference to Fig. 10 are non-adhering paper labels or tags as

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the paper labels or tags are uncoated or preferably provided with a release backing coating allowing the paper labels or tags to be easily removed from the support sheet or paper which contrary to the printing paper is provided with a front surface adhesive coating for temporarily fixating the paper labels or tags of the printing paper relative to the support sheet or paper during the storage and the printing process. It is also to be realized that materials different from paper such as composite paper and plastics material or plastics materials may be used for the support sheet and/or the printing paper. Although the present invention has been described above with reference to numerous, presently preferred embodiments of the label assembly, the present invention is by no means to be construed limited to the above described embodiments as numerals modifications and amendments are really deduceable to a person having ordinary skill in the art. Such modifications and amendments are to be considered part of the present invention as defined in the appending patent claims.

CLAIMS:

1. A label assembly, comprising:

a support sheet of a paper material or a paper like material, said support sheet defining opposite surfaces,

an adhesive coating of a non-permanent adhesive material of solvent based or preferably water based type applied to one side of said support sheet, and

a printing paper of a paper material or paper like material and defining opposite front and rear surfaces, said rear surface of said printing paper being releasably fixated to said support sheet in facial contact therewith through said adhesive coating and said printing paper being divided into individual paper labels or paper tags which are individually removable from said support sheet.

2. The label system according to Claim 1, said support sheet and said printing paper being of identical outer dimensions.

3. The label system according to Claim 2, said support sheet and said printing paper being of standard dimensions DIN A4 measuring 21 cm x 29.7 cm, US folio standard measuring 8½ inches x 14 inches (21.6 cm x 35.6 cm) or Japanese B4 standard measuing 36.4 x 25.7 cm.

4. The label system according to any of the Claims 1-4, said support sheet being divided into two or more support sheet sections, one of which is removable from said label assembly for partly exposing said rear surface of said printing paper.

5. The label system according to any of the Claims 1-4, said printing paper being an unprinted printing paper or printing cardboard or alternatively a pre-printed printing paper or printing cardboard having printings at said individual paper labels or paper tags.

6. The label system according to any of the Claims 1-5, said adhesive coating being an acrylic polymer or polyurethane containing adhesive, preferably a non-heat curable adhesive coating allowing said label

assembly to be printed in a printer such as a laser printer or ink jet printer exposing said label system to heat during the printing process.

7. The label system according to Claim 4, said support sheet being divided into said two or more support sheet sections through one or more lines of separation extending centrally through said individual paper labels or tags.

Fig. 1

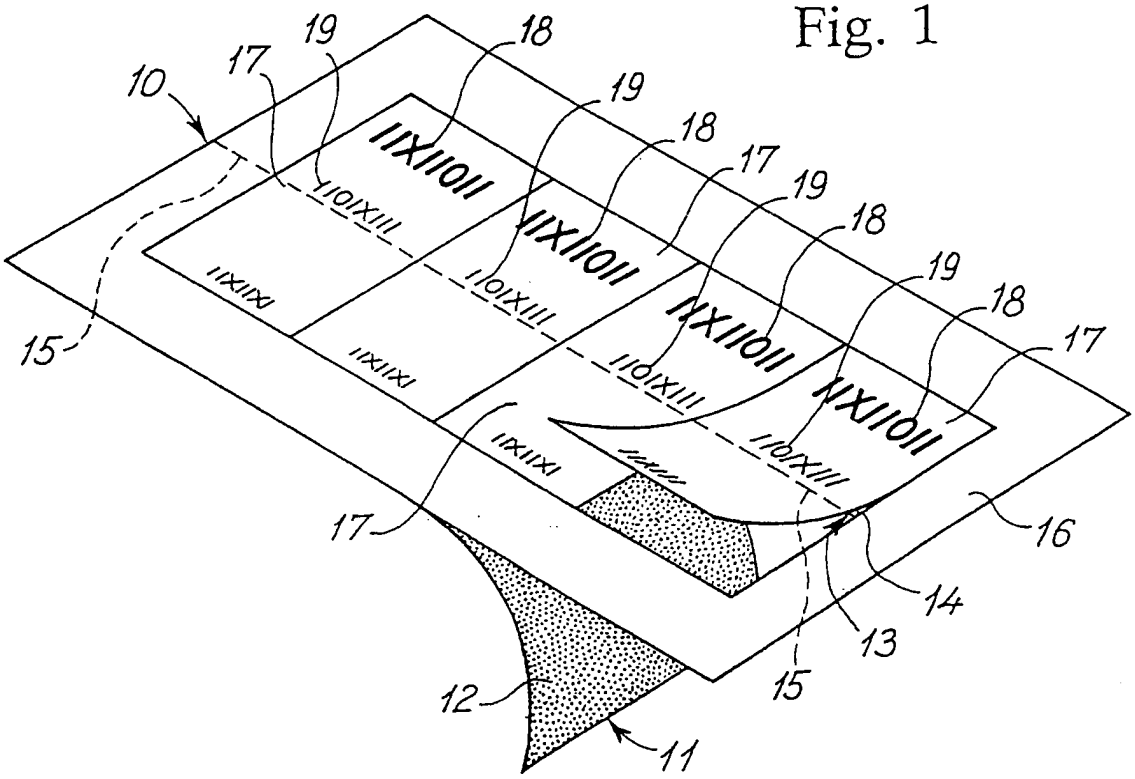

10
15
17
19
18
16
14
13
12
11

Fig. 2

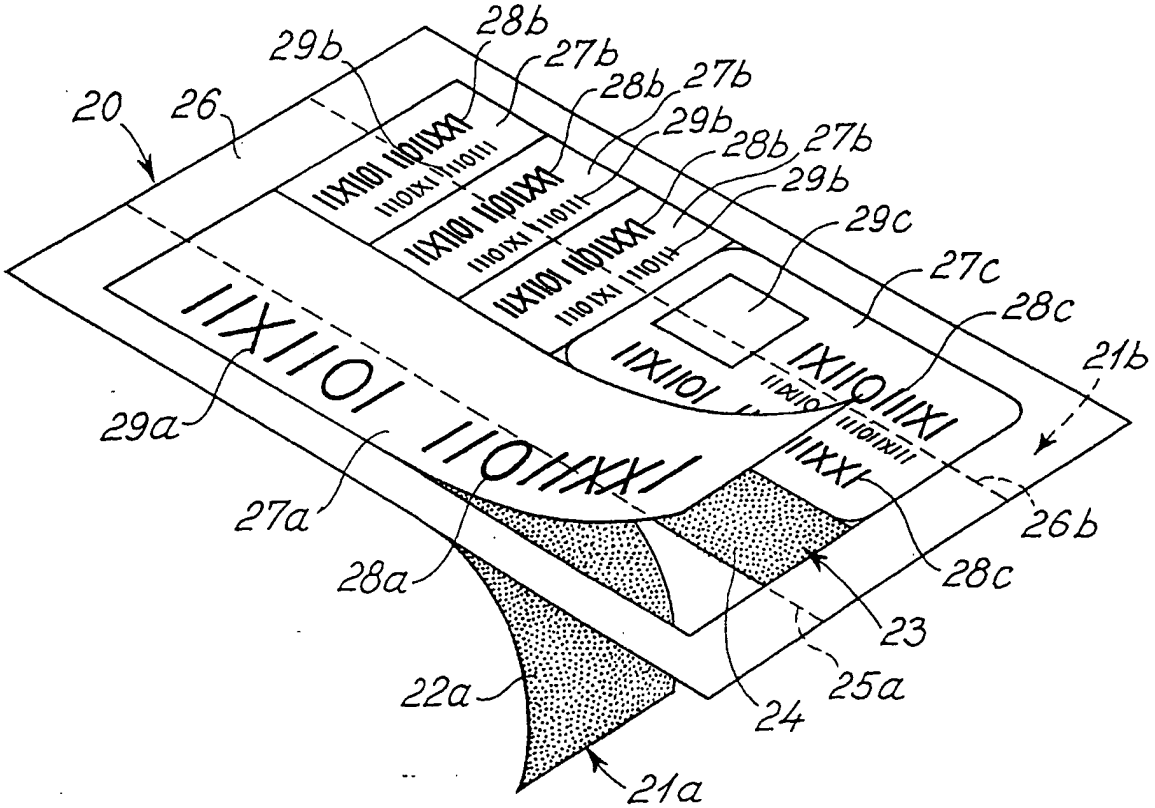

20
26
29b
28b
27b
29c
27c
28c
21b
29a
27a
28a
22a
21a
26b
23
24
25a

Fig. 3

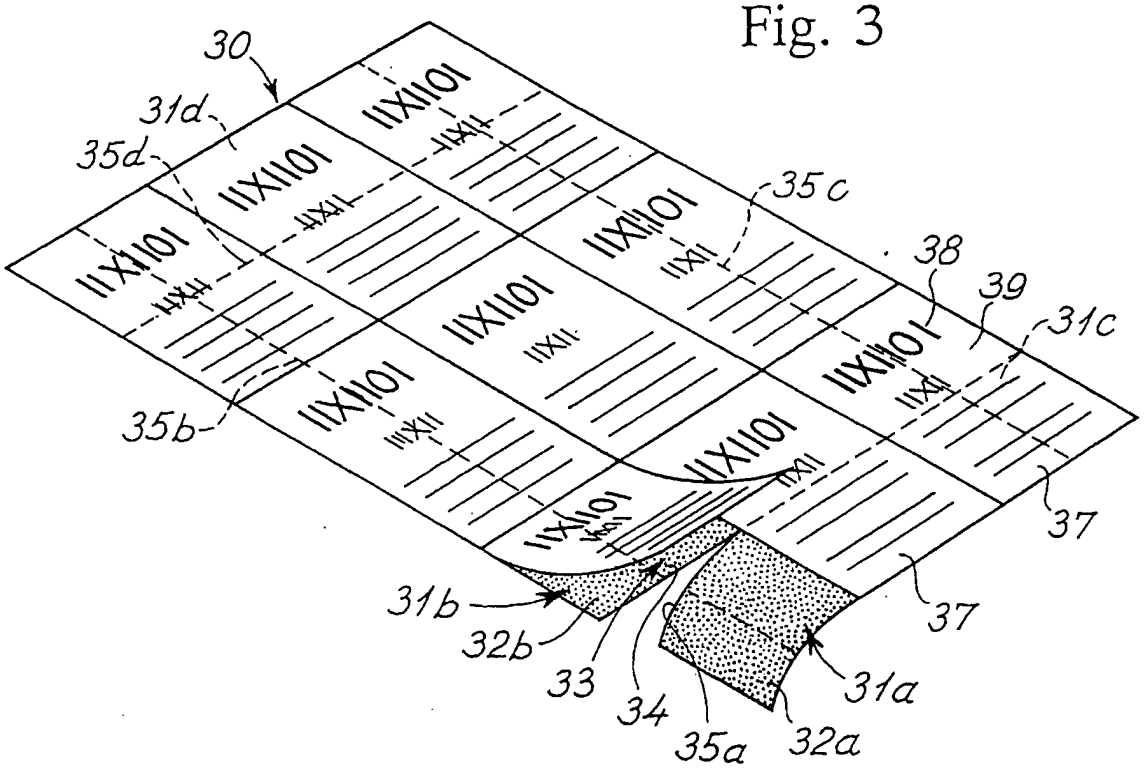

30
31d
35d
35c
38
39
31c
35b
37
31b
32b
33
34
35a
32a
31a

Fig. 4

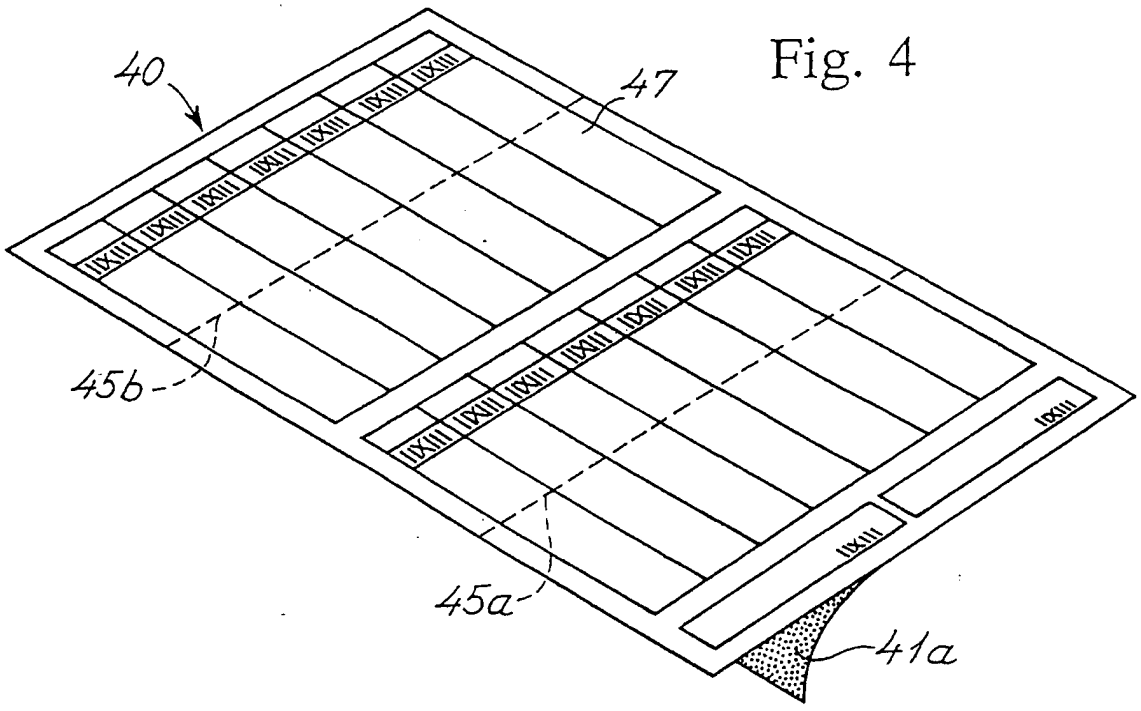

40
47
45b
45a
41a

Fig. 5

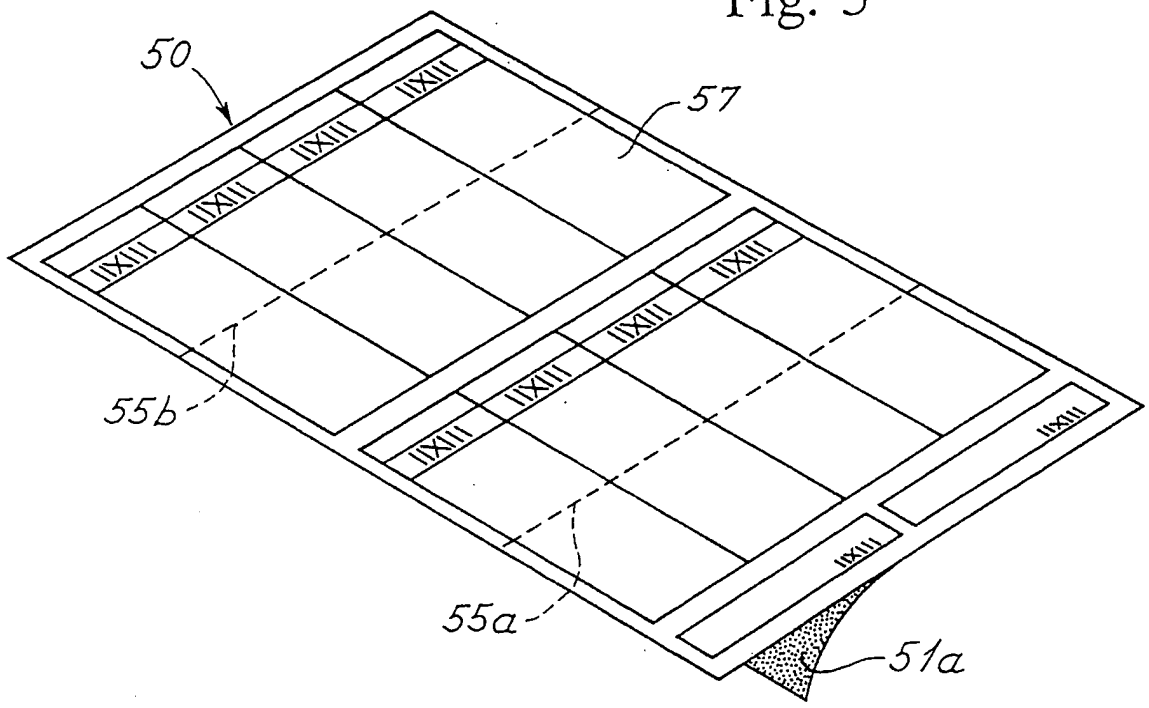
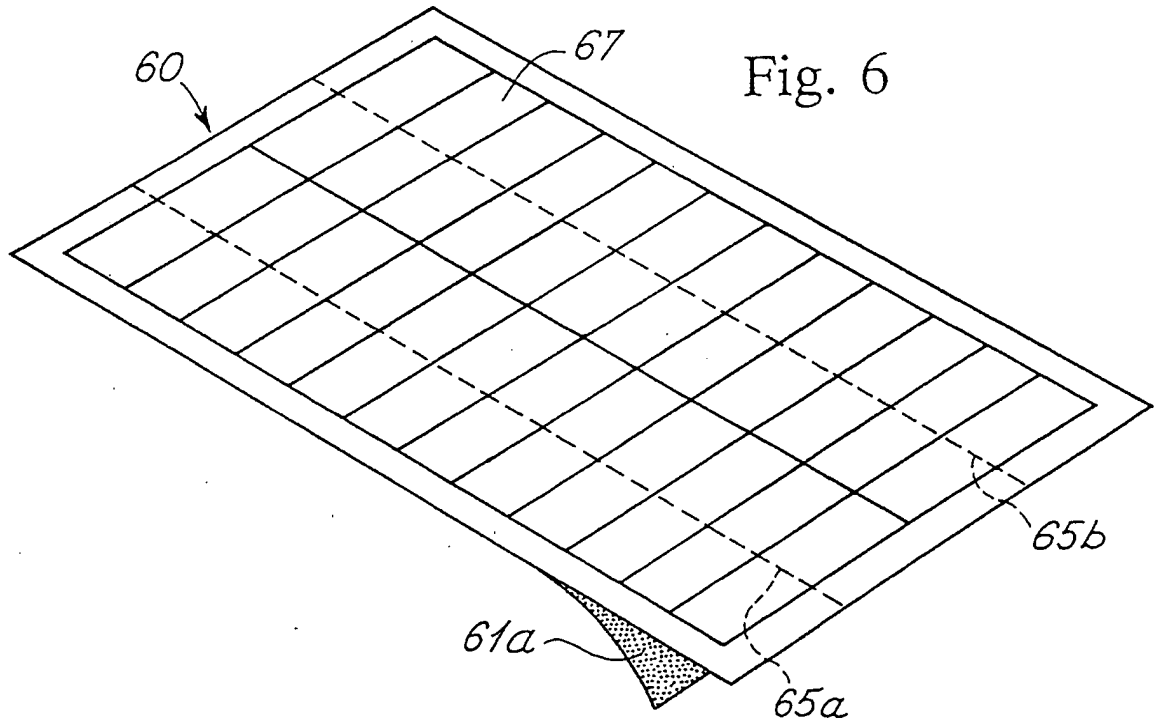


Fig. 6



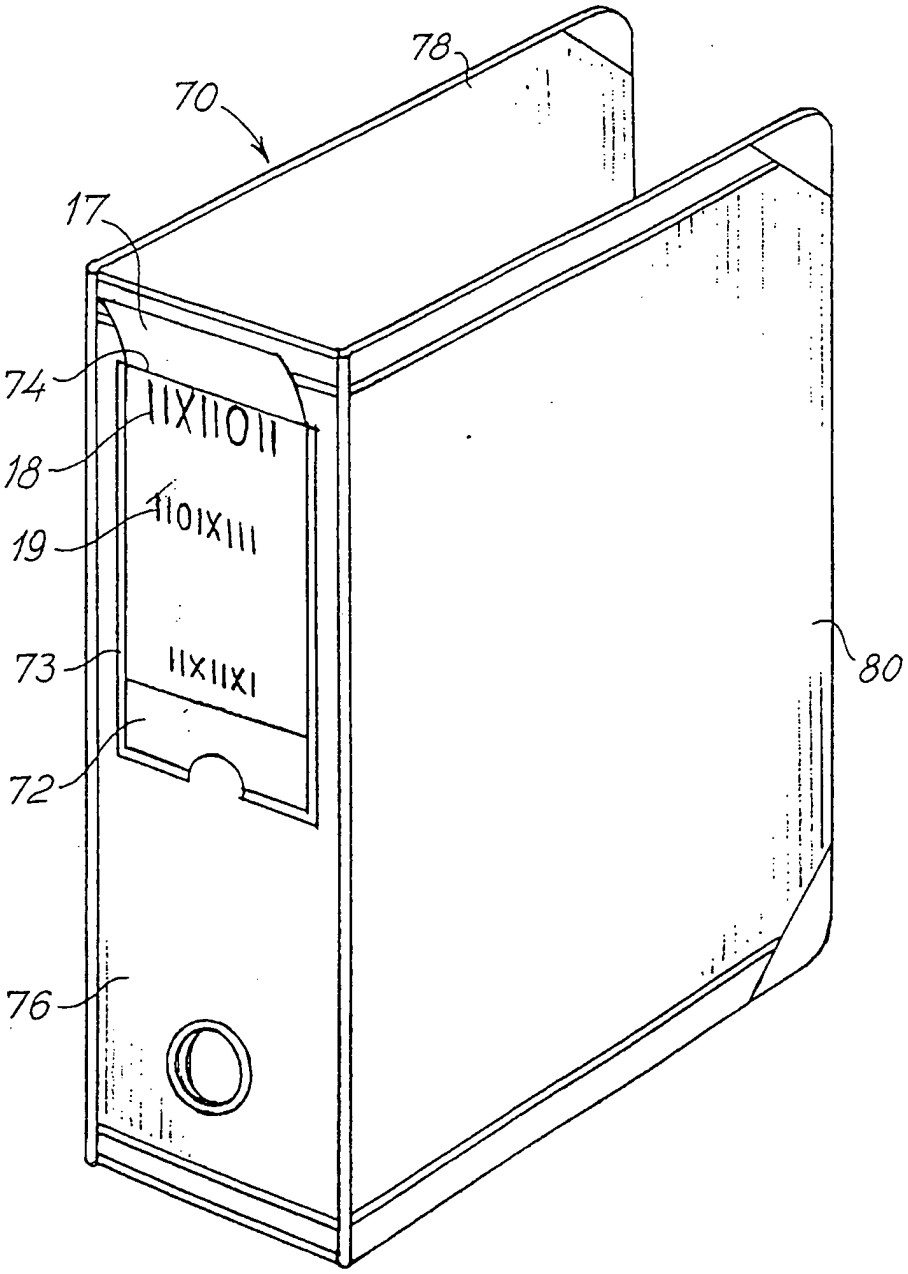


Fig. 7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/DK 98/00552

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: G09F 3/02, G09F 3/20 // B32B 29/00
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: G09F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPI

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 9534879 A1 (DRY LABEL DENMARK APS), 21 December 1995 (21.12.95), figures 1-7, claims 1, 3-5,7,8 --	1-7
X	NO 156959 B (GENERAL FOODS CORPORATION), 14 Sept 1987 (14.09.87), page 3, figures 1-3 --	1,2,3,5
X	EP 0597609 A1 (MOORE BUSINESS FORMS, INC.), 18 May 1994 (18.05.94), column 2, line 55 - column 3, line 46 --	1-7
X	EP 0389112 A1 (CELCAST PTY LTD.), 26 Sept 1990 (26.09.90), column 2, line 3 - line 28 --	1-3,5,6

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. [X] See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
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"E" erlier document but published on or after the international filing date
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
1 March 1999	09-03-1999
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ -- Swedish Patent Office, Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM, Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86	Authorized officer: Anna Sandberg, Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/DK 98/00552

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	EP 0488813 A2 (BURKE, B.K.), 3 June 1992 (03.06.92), column 1, line 53 - column 2, line 25 --	1-3,5,6
A	US 5418026 A (P.J. DRONZEK, JR. ET AL), 23 May 1995 (23.05.95), figures 1-3, abstract --	1-7
A	GB 1356426 A (BURMETAL S.A.), 12 June 1974 (12.06.74), page 3, line 46 - line 77 --	6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

02/02/99

International application No.
PCT/DK 98/00552

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